



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

200 PORTLAND STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114

TOM REILLY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
<http://www.ago.state.ma.us>

December 17, 2003

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: Boston Edison Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company, and
Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric, D.T.E. 03-100**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

On October 16, 2003, Boston Edison Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company and Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric ("NSTAR" or the "Companies") filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") a renewable power supply tariff for NSTAR's residential, small commercial and small industrial customers. The Companies refer to the proposal, which they filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, and 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.00 *et seq.*, as the NSTAR Green Power Adjustment ("NSTAR Green"). The Companies state that NSTAR Green will allow customers of standard offer or default service to purchase renewable energy certificates for an incremental 25 percent of a customer's total kilowatthour usage from a new renewable power source, as defined in the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standards. 225 C.M.R. §§ 14.00 *et seq.*

The Department should approve NSTAR Green. Supporting the development of affordable new sources of clean renewable energy is critical to our energy and environmental future. The proposal provides an affordable option for residential and small commercial/ industrial customers to support the development of new sources of clean renewable generation by increasing the demand for renewable energy certificates. NSTAR used customer focus groups for input in developing NSTAR Green, and then designed the program to balance the customers' desire for more renewable power with the need to limit the resulting price increases.

Although the Department approved the Massachusetts Electric GreenUp program in D.T.E. 03-55, the Department should not require all future utility "green" programs to be structured in the same manner. The Department should allow electric companies to implement multiple, diverse renewable energy programs in order to determine which programs are most successful in meeting the needs of customers. The approval of somewhat differing program designs will enable the Department and the market to gain valuable experience in deciding how "green" programs should proceed in the future.

Therefore, the Attorney General requests that the Department approve NSTAR Green.

Sincerely,

cc: William H. Stevens, Jr., Esq.
Service List

Joseph W. Rogers
Chief Utilities Division